

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, an abstract is added in order to replace any currently existing abstract. No new matter is added.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to and Applicants submit an abstract responsive to the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Dahm, U.S. Patent No. 5,848,080. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dahm fails to disclose at least a saturable absorber mirror, as recited in independent claim 1.

Dahm is directed to a laser capable of high precision cutting (Col. 1, lines 6-9). Dahm discloses the use of a short or very short cavity that limits the pulse energy. According to Dahm, the diameter of the TEM₀₀ mode is usually limited to a few millimeters or less. In addition, Dahm teaches that this does not advantageously use a large amount of the available gain in a laser rod that has a diameter of 4mm (Col. 5, lines 45-49). Thus, according to Dahm, no output coupler is required (Col. 5, lines 54-57). In addition, Dahm fails to disclose the use of a saturable absorber mirror. Therefore, fails to disclose the use of a saturable absorber mirror together with mode-coupling to generate ultra-short pulses.

Moreover, in the Office Action, the Examiner fails to point out where Dahm discloses a high-repetition mode-coupled ultra-short laser system for generating femto- or picosecond pulses, as recited in the preamble of independent claim 1. Furthermore, the Examiner fails to point out where Dahm discloses a saturable absorber mirror, as recited in independent claim 1. Regarding the above features, the Examiner does not assert that Dahm discloses the features. Therefore, Dahm fails to disclose all of the features of independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2 and 12 are also allowable for their dependence on independent claim 1

and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dahm. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As explained above, Dahm fails to disclose all of the features of independent claim 1. Furthermore, it is not obvious or predictable from the teachings of Dahm to arrive at the subject matter of independent claim 1. Thus, claims 7, 8, 10, 17, and 18 are allowable for their dependence on independent claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

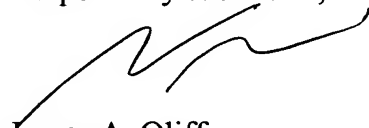
Claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dahm in view of Dell'Acqua, U.S. Publication No. 2005/0152426; claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dahm in view of Duguay, U.S. Patent No. 3,675,154; claims 6, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dahm in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA); claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dahm in view of Powell, U.S. Patent No. 4,849,036; and claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dahm in view of Duguay and AAPA. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited references fail to overcome the deficiencies of Dahm with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, dependent claims 2-10 and 12-19 are allowable for their dependence on independent claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Abstract

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